

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 091640Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0254

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

UNCLAS BRASILIA 5630

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BR

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF RIVER DREDGING PROJECT

REF: STATE 134284

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM PLANS FOR UNUSUAL DREDGING OPERATIONS ALONG PAANA RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES. REPORTS RECEIVED BY C.F. BEAN CORP. MAY CONFUSE PARANA AND PARA RIVERS. FURTHER INQUIRIES CONCERNING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS SECTOR SHOULDVB E DIRECTED TO THE COMPANHIA BRASILEIRA DE DRAGAGEM (CBD) END SUMMARY.

2. THE CBD HAS INFORMED CONGEN RIO THERE ARE NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO PERFORM ANY DREDGING IN THE PARANA RIVER BASIN OTHER THAN NORMAL DREDGING REQUIRED FOR MAINTAINING BOATING SERVICES PERSENTLY IN OPERATION. CBD STATES FURTHER THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, SUFFICIENT EQUIPMENT AND STAFF ARE AVAILABLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE DREDGING SERVICES IN THE BRAZILIAN PORTION OF THE PARANA RIVER BASIN. CBD ALSO STATES THAT, AS IN PAST, REGULAR DREDGING OPERATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE ON PARAGUAI RIVER BUT THAT NO EXTRAORDINARY OPERATIONS ARE PLANNED AT THIS TIME.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NEW ORLEANS FIRM CITED REFTEL THINKING OF PARA RIVER IN NORTHERN BRAZIL WHERE, ACCORDING TO CONSULATE BELEM, THERE ARE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT RAILHEAD AND PORT FOR SERRA

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SAO LUIS, MARANHAO. THIS WOULD INVOLVE DREDGING OF PARA RIVER

WITH ESTIMATED COST OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THESE COSTS, HOWEVER?, 297)\$ APPEAR TO RENDER ENTIRE IRON ORE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY INFEASIBLE. THUS EMBASSY TENDS TO DISCOUNT RUMOR.

4. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS CONCERNING POSSIBLE DREDGING BY THE PARA DOCK COMPANY AT PORT OF BELEM ANDHOF A PROJECT ALONG JARI RIVER PLANNED BY NATIONAL BULK CARRIERS OF NEW YORK. NO FIRM PLANS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THESE PROJECTS, BOTH OF WHICH, IN CONSULATE BELEM'S VIEW, APPEAR TO BE LONG TERM PROSPECTS ONLY.

5. CONCERNING MINERAL DEPOSITS IN BRAZILIAN TERRITORY, CONGEN RIO HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT SEVERAL COMPANIES (INCLUDING ICOMI, THE ANTUNES GROUP-BETHLEHEM JOINT VENTURE COMPANY) ARE STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW MINING OPERATIONS ALONG PARAGIAU RIVER IN URUCUM AREA NEAR CORUMBA, MATO GROSSO, WHERE LARGE RESERVES OF MANGANESE (ESTIMATED 100 MILLION TONS -- 46 PERCENT MN) AND IRON ORE (ESTIMATED 400 MILLION TONS-- 63-65 PERCENT FE) ARE LOCATED. LARGE IRON ORE RESERVES ARE ALSO LOCATED WEST OF PARAGUAI RIVER IN BOLIVIA, THE IMPORTANT MUTUN DEPOTIT.

6. COMPANHIA BRASILEIRA DE DRAGAGEM (CBD)-- RUA DOM GUARDO 35, RIO DE JANEIRO, RDJ. BRAZIL -- CONDUCTS ALL DREDGING WORK IN BRAZIL UNDER SUPERVISION OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF PORTS AND WATERWAYS (DNPVN) OF WHICH CBD IS SUBSIDIARY. INTERESTED SUBCONTRACTORS FOR DREDGING WORK SHOULD CONTACT CBD DIRECTLY. ADDRESSING CORRESPONDENCE TO THE ATTENTION OF MR. MARCO ANTONIO DE PAIVA, TECHNICAL MANAGER.
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